

Meeting Notes

CEQA Scoping Meeting and Public Workshop

October 24, 2012

10:00 AM -12:00 PM

Location: City of Willows Council Chambers, 201 North Lassen Street, Willows, CA 95988

Attendees:

Colusa Basin Drainage District/Biggs-West Gridley Water District – Eugene Massa Jr.

Colusa Glenn Subwatershed Program – Kandi Manhart, Larry Domenighini

Central Valley Water Board - Anne Littlejohn, Calvin Yang, Greg, Heidi Bauer, Jeanne Chilcott, Katie Connaughton (Bowman), Margaret Wong, Mark Cady

Sutter County Resource Conservation District – Juleah Cordi

City of Willows – Skyler Lipski

Summary of Comments

(Note – Central Valley Water Board staff responses are presented in a separate “Response to Comments” Document)

The following are comments made regarding the proposed project alternatives:

Alternative 1 – No Action

- Not a suitable alternative; some type of action is necessary
- Government put us in the current situation as a default; Science is needed to get us out

Alternative 2 – Site Specific Objectives Approach

- What are we going to replace the MCLs with?
- Does the MCL address the water quality objectives for other beneficial uses?
- If we use site specific objectives to address a region, we will still need a categorization process.
- Can site specific objectives be reviewed or changed after adopted?

Alternative 3 – Water Body Categorical Approach

- Who would be responsible for following the water body categorization flow charts and decision trees?
- Beneficial to develop a template that can be used elsewhere
- Flexibility of the approach appealing
- How are all of the definitions going to be worked out?
- Would specific water bodies be named in the Basin Plans or just the flowcharts?

Alternative 4 – Tributary Rule Approach

- Use of the tributary rule is not appealing and is too vague

Alternative 5 – Dedesignate the MUN beneficial use in all ag dominated water bodies

- Simplest option for the Sacramento Valley – it will take too long to iron out all the definitions required for Alternative 3
- Start with this option to address immediate problems with POTWs while working on Alternative 3 as a longer term option
- How are we going to define and find Ag dominated water bodies?
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- What is needed for this 5th option?
- Did Vacaville try option 5 and did it succeed or fail? If Vacaville used this alternative, what method was used to identify water body type?

The following are comments made regarding the overall project:

- The Sacramento Valley may not be a good template for other areas like the San Joaquin Valley because the hydrology and rainfall patterns are different
- Economic considerations need to be made – will there be a financial burden on the local stakeholders and water districts?
- Who is funding the project now?
- Will there be ancillary consequences that will affect local stakeholders in the future?
- Why can't the tributary rule be used for water bodies draining into the Colusa Basin Drain?
- Are there any other municipalities facing the same issue?
- Is MUN in Ag dominated water bodies an issue for dischargers other than POTWs?
- Can you really get to a preferred alternative in 1-year?
- How easy will it be to get approval from USEPA, State Board and OAL?

- How is an Ag dominated water defined?

- How is the Department of Health involved?
- Note that DWR has data for water districts.